FLASH BACK

Preserving
The Past
For the Future

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Membership in our Society is open to anyone interested in the collection and preservation of Washington County's history. We have members in all 50 states. Dues are on a discretionary "give what one chooses" basis starting with $7.50 annually rising to $150 for a lifetime membership. Donations, tax deductible according to current law, are gratefully received throughout the year. Members receive FLASHBACK quarterly and other mailings periodically. Copies of FLASHBACK for past issues are $5.00 each, current year's quarterlies are $3.00 each.

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AUG 3 1988

FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

WALTER J. LEMKE HONORED

The Board of Trustees for the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville passed a resolution recently naming the UAF Journalism Department the Walter J. Lemke Department of Journalism.

According to Department Chairman Robert R. Douglas, this is the first journalism department in Arkansas to be named after its founder. It is a timely acknowledgement made to coincide with the 60th anniversary of Lemke's arrival on campus in 1928, the year he began teaching journalism at Fayetteville. "Uncle Walt" as he was fondly addressed by many members of the schools and WCHS, chaired the department from 1930 to his retirement in 1959.

UAF President John C. Futrall recruited Lemke as a "one man" journalism department who was to direct the university's news bureau, also. The new teacher, who died in 1968 at 79, was a strong proponent of journalism education at every level. He was instrumental in founding the Arkansas High School Press Association. He early on helped revive the Washington County Historical Society and was deeply involved in establishing the Prairie Grove Battlefield Park.

"He touched a lot of lives. I think he was interested in every student he ever had," said present Chairman Robert Douglas, who was Lemke's student at Fayetteville and later became managing editor of the *Arkansas Gazette*.

"During World War II," Douglas added, "Lemke frequently wrote, mimeographed, and mailed a news letter to former students and other friends in the U.S. and overseas." There are copies of this voluminous correspondence in the Special Collections at Mullins Library at U. of A.

After WWII, while he was still actively teaching, ex-students as well as many others gathered monies and bought him an automobile, a unique tribute showing the great love and respect "Uncle Walt" engendered.

Originally housed in Old Main, the journalism department is now in Kimpel Hall and is one of the largest departments in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, accommodating more than 400 students. The 1988 senior class has produced six Phi Beta Kappa students as recognition of their top academic achievements.

This renaming of the department comes at a time of other important changes there. A new master's degree program, the only one of its kind in the country, is getting underway. Starting next year, journalism undergraduates will be required to write an undergraduate thesis to complete their course of study. The Walter J. Lemke Department of Journalism has a newly equipped Macintosh computer writing lab, plus television production facilities. The department has raised academic standards dramatically in the last few years under Mr. Douglas' stewardship.

Later this summer there will be a dedication ceremony, the date to coincide with Mr. Lemke's arrival at the University 60 years ago.

ANNOUNCING!!

Thru the many efforts of the MCCURDY-APPLEBY descendants, our society is now in possession of the genealogy of the MCCURDY-APPLEBY FAMILY. We are informed that we now have more information on these families than any other repository in the U.S. This information is in the form of excerpts from books, personal knowledge of family members, and much primary source material gathered from court houses. We are especially grateful to Mr. J.R. McCurdy, Julius McCurdy, Patricia McCurdy, and Dorothy Turner. Due to the voluminous amount of information our volunteer staff is unable to do in-depth research. We welcome our members to come to Headquarters House and use this material.

STOCKBURGER - LINDSEY KIRKPATRICK FAMILY

by Madge Kirkpatrick

(The following story on the Stockburgers is a continuation of the story on page 19 of the May 1988 FLASHBACK.)

Joseph Adam Stockburger, the sixth child of John Calvin and Martha Ann Reed, was my grandfather. He married Annette Etta Bentley who came to Arkansas with her family from Wisconsin. They were married in 1882. Grandma's family went on to California and she never saw them again. Joseph and Etta (as my grandmother was called) had seven children. They were: Ina, b. 1883; Ernest Allen, b. 1885; Lee Calvin, b. 1887; Myrtle, b. 1889; Joseph Howard, b. 1891, died of diphtheria at four years; Winona, b. 1895; and Robert C., b. 1898.

The thing I remember about Grandmother was her very unselfish ways. She enjoyed doing things for her family and neighbors any time they were in need. Her good cooking is a fond memory. Her home was always clean. The clothes were washed even when she had to carry them down to the spring for water, scrubbing them on a washboard and boiling them in a big iron kettle. My grandfather had a huge barn where he kept horses and cattle with a few pigs, for meat. They had a corn crib and a smokehouse. I recall riding in the wagon with Grandpa and at time he would let me drive. He owned a horse named "Old Snip" that I rode, too.

Grandpa always took his family to church on Sunday. Church was held in the Round Mountain schoolhouse. I think back on my mother's telling me that the preacher invariably came home with them for dinner. Grandma had cooked for all of them.

Winona Stockburger married Ernest Lindsey in 1916. They were my parents. My father came here with his folks from Texas. They lived near Greenland. He and my mother met at the Baptist Ford Decoration. They had two children, Harold R. Lindsey, b. 1918, and Madge Lindsey

(Kirkpatrick), b. 1924. We lived in Texas most of the time until I was grown. My dad ran the cotton gin in Dodson, TX. About the time of World War II we moved back to Arkansas to live permanently. My parents were active in the Baptist Ford Church. My mother taught Sunday School; my dad was song leader and a member of the Church Board.

My husband, Wathen Kirkpatrick, lived in our same neighborhood. He and I both graduated from Greenland High School together. We were married in 1941. We have two children: Terrence Lindsey, b. 1953, and Winona Annette, b. 1959. Our children graduated from Greenland High School. Terrence graduated from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and from North Carolina State University, also. Annette attended the U. of A. for three years.

Terrence married Toni Anderson in 1972. They have two sons, Matthew Terrence, b. 1974, and Wesley David, b. 1977. Annette married Boyd Darling in 1982 and they have one son, Andrew Boyd, b. 1986. Terrence works for the University of Arkansas at the Southwest Research and Extension Center in Hope, AR. Annette and Boyd own a florist shop (The Flower Bud) in Fayetteville. Our grandsons are the seven generation since the first Stockburgers came to Arkansas in 1852. We are living on part of the original homestead owned by John Calvin and Martha.

The Robert and Elizabeth Fagala Reed Homestead as it appeared in 1923. The double log house was erected in 1852 from timbers cut on the property. The First Baptist Church of West Fork now (1988) occupies the location.

COLLEGE CEMETERY: A SECOND LOOK

by Anthony J. Wappel,
Special Collections Department, U. of A.

In November, 1956, the Washington County Historical Society published a short article by "RG" in *FLASHBACK* about College Cemetery. "COLLEGE CEMETERY: A SECOND LOOK" is based on the discoveries I made while serving as a records management intern for the Special Collections Department at the University of Arkansas. This February and March I spent several weeks inventorying and organizing a group of records from the President's Office deposited in the Special Collections Department in 1967. The records consisted of approximately 6 linear feet of annual reports and other correspondence to and from the President's Office from the 1870's to the 1940's. One box of records contained fire insurance papers from the 1930's.

As I attempted to put some order to the chaotic records, I discovered a plat illustrating lot E 35 in Fairview Cemetery. According to this plat, several U of A students were removed from the U of A Cemetery to Fairview Cemtery in January, 1928. Being new to the Fayetteville area, I did not think much about this discovery because I assumed it was common knowledge among long time residents. However, during a coffee break I asked Ellen Shipley, our field archivist, if she knew about the college cemetery and found to both our amazement that the cemetery was unknown. From that moment on, my job changed from records management intern to detective.

The discovery of the plat raised six interesting questions. One, where was the college cemetery located? Two, did it

pre-date the University; if it did not, when did the University establish it? Three, why did the University establish the cemetery? Four, why weren't all the bodies of students who died sent home? Five, were all the people buried in the cemetery students? Six, why did the University remove the bodies to Fairview in 1928?

I expected the University of Arkansas histories (Reynolds and Thomas, 1910; Hale, 1948; Leflar, 1972) to answer my first question on location. Unfortunately, none of them even alluded to a cemetery on campus. I then spoke with Professor Robert A. Leflar about the cemetery. He told me it existed on the northwest corner of Maple and Garland. A parking lot exists there now. Professor Leflar did not know how old it was but presumed the cemetery dated back to the 19th century. (He also noted that the experimental farm was on the lot next to the cemetery and one year an unsuccessful attempt was made to grow cotton.) I verified the location of the cemetery with a 1908 map of the City of Fayetteville. Also, a sketch of the University drawn by Professor George D. Purinton around 1887 illustrates the boundary of the cemetery. Some of the cemetery also existed where Maple Street extends westward from Garland.

The second question I had to answer was whether or not the cemetery pre-dated the University. I had hoped to take a shortcut by attempting to establish a date from obituaries of those persons listed on the plat. Helen Brannan, Naomi Horn, and Grace Keith at the Fayetteville Public Library were most helpful in this part of my research. Unfortunately, we were able to discover only five obituaries in the *Fayetteville Weekly*; the oldest one being of Evans Treadwell who died in 1888. I still did not know if the cemetery pre-dated the University.

My next hope was the Washington County Circuit Clerk's Office. There, I analyzed deeds of the property on which the cemetery was located. All I discovered was that the property was owned in turn by George Freyschlag (1835), William McIlroy (1851), and Arkansas Industrial

University (1871) None of the recorded deeds mentioned a cemetery. Ironically, the last hope I had for answering the rest of my questions was the original source of my discovery — the University Archives.

If Evans Treadwell died in 1888 and was buried in the U of A Cemetery, and if the recorded deeds did not mention a cemetery, then the logical conclusion is that the University established the cemetery sometime between 1871 and 1888. If any record of it existed, it had to be in the minutes of the Board of Trustees. I began a painstaking search of the beautifully handwritten minutes for the period 1871 to 1891. The search was not in vain.

The minutes vividly described the recently purchased McIlroy farm. There being no mention of a graveyard or cemetery, I became comfortable with the above hypothesis. The June 11, 1879 minutes answered my second question. On that date Trustee A.W. Dinsmore appointed a committee to prepare a site on University grounds suitable for a cemetery for University use. Furthermore, Trustee Dinsmore authorized the Secretary of the Board of Trustees to issue a warrant to Professor O.C. Gray for the amount expended by him in burying indigent deceased students. The cemetery did not pre-date the University.

The June 12 and June 14, 1879 minutes answered my third question of why the cemetery was established. In his report to the Board of Trustees, President D.H. Hill sadly noted the deaths of six students during the 1878/1879 school year. Five students died from pneumonia; one from malarial fever. Five of the students were from southeast Arkansas. President Hill believed these students died because they could not adjust to the cooler climate of the mountainous northwestern part of the state. He refused to believe poor sanitary conditions at A.I.U. caused their deaths. One June 14, 1879 the Board of Trustees authorized $50 for the burial of deceased students. Apparently, the Board of Trustees decided to establish a cemetery so the University would have a place to bury their indigent dead.

In the June 8, 1880 minutes Trustees D.E. Jones, D.H. Hill, and Lafayette Gregg reported that they had found and prepared a site for a college cemetery. On June 10, 1880, the Secretary of the Board authorized the removal of the remains of students from Evergreen Cemetery. Apparently, the six students who died in 1878/1879 were buried in Evergreen and were reinterred in College Cemetery in 1880. This finding has resulted in an additional question. Why were the bodies removed from Evergreen Cemetery? There is no definitive answer. It is possible that A.I.U. decided it was their responsibility to take care of their own. Believing that the University was its own community, the Board of Trustees might have believed students buried in Evergreen Cemetery should be returned home — to the college campus where they died.

It is also difficult to answer my fourth question. Students probably were not sent home because they had to be buried quickly, or students' families could not afford to have the remains shipped home by rail or carriage. Another point is that some of the students were from Fayetteville. They died at home; subsequently, as indigent students they were buried in College Cemetery.

My fifth question was answered by examining the roster of cemetery occupants. Some of the people buried in College Cemetery were neither students nor indigent. One doctor and one professor were buried in College Cemetery. Dr. S.M. Taff, a native of Scott County, moved to Fayetteville as a child. He practiced medicine in Saint Louis until he developed tuberculosis. He came back to Fayetteville where he died in 1901. As an alumnus of A.I.U. Dr. Taff may have requested that he be buried in College Cemetery. Professor A.T. Graber was a music professor. The Board of Trustees appointed him director in 1901. He died in 1902. The burial of these two people in College Cemetery lends additional support to the idea the cemetery helped represent A.I.U. as its own community.

The last known burial in College Cemetery took place in

1902 when Professor Graber died. Others may have been buried there until 1928. Several long time residents of Fayetteville have told me that all the bodies were not removed from the cemetery in 1928. Furthermore, the November, 1956 issue of *FLASHBACK* lists several persons buried in College Cemetery who are not listed on the plat of Lot E 35 of Fairview Cemetery. However, there is no documentation to prove that anyone is still buried on campus. Excepting the fourteen known burials in College Cemetery, exactly who else was buried in the cemetery and where they are buried today remains a mystery. What we know is that in 1928 the University of Arkansas removed the known graves to Fairview Cemetery. Although the University may have planned to build on the site of the cemetery, nothing except a baseball field, a tennis court, and the current parking lot have been built there. We also know that the extension of Maple Street to the west of Garland may have played an important role in the removal of graves.

The answer to my sixth question, why the University of Arkansas decided to close College Cemetery in 1928, cannot be definitely answered. Nevertheless, this second look into the history of College Cemetery reveals that the University of Arkansas believed it was its own community. In this date of impersonality, it is refreshing to note that the University was so comprehensively concerned about its own. Obviously, the University of Arkansas is much larger than it was in 1880 or even in 1928, so the amount of personal involvement that existed one hundred or sixty years ago may never be recaptured. To remind the student body, faculty, and staff that the University of Arkansas was and still can be a community of its own, it might be appropriate to set aside a few parking spaces at the corner of Garland and Maple for a historical marker dedicating the site not only to those students who died in the 19th century, but also to all students, faculty and staff who may have passed away while attending or serving the University of Arkansas.

Persons Buried in College Cemetery 1880-1923

Black, Robert F. Preparatory student from Hampton, Calhoun County.
died: April 9, 1893 of pneumonia.

* Chambliss, T.D. Preparatory student from LaPile, Union County.
died: December 21, 1878 of pneumonia.

* Finley, S.C. Preparatory student from Helena, Phillips County.
died: December 19, 1878 of pneumonia.

Graber, Professor A.T. Music Director
died: 1902 of appendicitis.

* Halley, R.H. Freshmen student from Waldron, Scott County.
died: December 10, 1878 of pneumonia.

* McNeil, Mabel, child of Professor J.F. McNeil.

* Menard, J.L. Sophomore student from Chester, Desha County.
died: April 10, 1879 of pneumonia.

Mills, Nannie Preparatory student from Clarendon, Monroe County.
died: November 1, 1889 of swamp fever.

Pearce, S.H. Preparatory student from Magnolia, Columbia County.

* Ragon, J.D. Preparatory student from Morrison's Bluff, Logan County.
died: January 23, 1880 of pneumonia.

* Read, Emily Freshman student from Fayetteville, Washington County.

* Refeld, L.L. Preparatory student from Arkansas Post, Arkansas County.
died: January 12, 1880 of pnuemonia.

Sellers, J.F. Preparatory student from North Creek, Phillips County.
died: March 29, 1880 of pneumonia.

* Slaton, Joseph M. Preparatory student from Star City, Lincoln County.
died: October 14, 1878 of malarial fever.

Smith, M.C. Preparatory student from Farmerville, Lincoln Parish, LA.

* Snyder, W.E. Preparatory student from Pine Bluff, Jefferson County.
died: January 14, 1879 of pneumonia.

Stanford, Nellie from Waldron, Scott County.
died: September 19, 1895.

Taff, Dr. S.M. A.I.U. alúmnus from Fayetteville, Washington County.
died: May 22, 1901 of tuberculosis.

Thomason, Demmie Sophomore student from Fayetteville, Washington County.

Tolle, Adelia Preparatory student from Fayetteville, Washington County.
died: November 18, 1897 of measles.

Treadwell, Evans Freshman student from Toledo, Cleveland County.
died: August 31, 1888 of typhoid fever.

Treadwell, Mrs.

* Waggoner, Mr.

Wainwright, John

Whithorne, J.D. Preparatory student from Carmel, Chicot County.

* These persons are presumed to have been buried in College Cemetery. They are not listed on the plat of Lot E 35 of Fairview Cemetery. However, the November, 1956 issue of *FLASHBACK*, as well as President Hill's Report to the Board of Trustees in 1879 and 1880 lead me to believe they were buried in College Cemetery, also. Those who died in 1880 and before may have been buried in Evergreen Cemetery prior to creation of College Cemetery in 1880.

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The Ozark, 1895...1901.

University Magazines, 1893.

Arkansas Industrial University and University of Arkansas Catalogues, 1893-1902.
Map of Fayetteville, 1908.

CEMETERY RECORDS
Evergreen Cemetery (through Mrs. Vera Hall)
Fairview Memorial Cemetery

FAYETTEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Fayetteville Weekly, 1880-1928. (Obituary Index)

WASHINGTON COUNTY
Circuit Clerk's Records. Deed Books A and B.

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Flashback, November, 1956.

QUERIES

Dwight Lynn Alford, Route 4, Box 4108, Morrison, TN 37357 seeks the name of the town and county in Arkansas from which J.E. YELL came before moving to Jefferson County, TX. He was a farmer, born 1860 or 1861, m. Lillie? who died 9/29/32 in Rosedale Texas. He died 2/20/35 in Rosedale, TX. Both are buried in Magnolia Cemetery at Beaumont, TX. Also need his Arkansas birthplace.

Clea McLeod, 1516 E. 55th Pl., Tulsa, Ok. 74105 wishes to contact descendants of William E. McKinzie, b. 2 February 1852, in Kentucky, died 13 January 1919 in Arkansas. On 12 June 1870 he married Mary Jane Chandler, b. 25 June 1856. William E. McKenzie's parents were John and Jane Smith McKinzie.

This is a picture of my grandfather, I.W. Guisinger, in front of the music store he established in Fayetteville, AR, 1905.

GUISINGER MUSIC HOUSE

Fayetteville, Arkansas

by Louise Guisinger Sager

(Author's Note: As a child I spent many hours listening to Dad tell stories of experiences of my grandfather and the salesmen as they traveled about the country selling pianos and organs. In 1960, I enrolled in a folklore class at the University of Arkansas taught by Miss Mary Parlor. As a term project I wrote the following paper.)

In 1900 my grandfather, Mr. I.W. Guisinger, began peddling (selling) pianos and pedal organs for the L.E. Lyons Music Co. located in Springfield, MO. He traveled all over this part of the country in a wagon pulled by a team of horses and sometimes by railroad, selling these instruments. After working faithfully for about a year or two, my grandfather was put in charge of five wagons with the salesmen going out all over the country selling for the Lyons Music Co.

After working five years for the Lyons Music Co. he decided he had learned much about the selling of organs

and pianos. So he made up his mind to go in the music business for himself. He bought a half interest in a music store in Fayetteville, AR, and within a very short time he bought out the man with whom he was in business. Thus the beginning of the Guisinger Music House in 1905, which consisted of a few organs, a few pianos, and a moderate amount of musical merchandise.

Teams with a wagon and a salesman, and oftentimes my grandfather, would load an organ or a piano and leave the music store the first of each week, to stay gone until the instrument they carried had been sold. They never brought the organ or piano back, staying out until it was sold. I have heard my grandmother say that she never knew just when my grandfather was coming home; he was determined to make a success, so she understood his delay. She was a very lovable and patient wife, and always eager for his return home after every trip. Generally the piano or organ was first delivered to the home of a prospect. If this prospect did not buy, the instrument would be placed in another home.

There were many hardships whether traveling by wagon, horseback or train as there were no graded roads and very few bridges in the country. Often it was impossible for the driver to cross the rivers, because after heavy rains the ford would be washed out. This meant that the driver-salesman would have to leave his team with the wagon and continue on foot to his destination. Many people drowned trying to cross the streams. Sometimes my grandfather would unhitch one of his horses and ride the animal into the river to determine the water's depth. With this test he would know if he could safely drive his team with a piano loaded in the wagon across the stream. If the water was at flood stage, he would have to stay on the one side, to work until the water subsided.

My grandfather, knowing that he must continue, would pursue his trip with the loaded instrument. Many times he would travel an old, unworked road — narrow, crooked, abounding in roots, stumps, rocks and gullies, running

through a forest almost without an inhabitant. He would wonder if he had taken the right road.

When traveling through the country, transportation was far too slow to reach a town by nightfall. Of course, cars were unknown; everyone traveled by horse. Since they often could not reach a town, they would have to stay all night in a private home. They always found people very hospitable. Some of the homes were very small, so they would have to sleep three in a bed. The travelers also ate their meals with their overnight hosts, always offering to pay, whether or not it was accepted. People did welcome them and seemed glad to receive guests as it was a source of income for some.

Hotels were not like the ones we have today. From the pictures we have, I would say the accommodations were mostly just makeshift. In the small towns, hotels were tiny, and sometimes one would have to sleep with a stranger. The beds were very often made with boards instead of spr-

One of the show windows of the Guisinger Music House, showing the Edison phonograph. Note the picture of Thomas A. Edison who perfected it.

ings. Then, too, they might have mattresses made of shucks or straw. I remember my grandfather telling me about one trip on which fleas bit him all night. Even hardships like this did not discourage him from traveling and working up a larger music business. He kept on with this effort until he no longer needed to go on the road. He began to stay most of the time in the music store as he hired salesmen to take over the country selling of his merchandise. But Grandfather couldn't give up making some of those trips. He was a good salesman and well liked. He mixed well with people, and had many friends as clients. A goodly portion of his business was from his relationships with the folks in the outlying areas.

Occasionally a salesman would take a piano or organ to a town in Oklahoma or some other state. For instance, as many as eight pianos would be shipped by rail to Claremore, OK. The salesman would follow in his wagon, unbox the pianos at Claremore depot, then deliver them to the homes of people with children in need of a piano. These were considered good prospects. In more than half the homes where pianos were placed, the people became owners of the instrument. When pianos were shipped to any town, they were always sold in or near that destination. If not sold in the first home as placed, the piano would be moved to another until a contract was signed.

Most of the families in eastern Oklahoma were Indians or part Indian. Only a small percentage of the younger tribesmen could speak English. A still smaller percent of the elders could speak any English at all. They all spoke Cherokee.

One summer when my Dad was twelve years old, he went with Mr. Howell, one of the piano salesmen, to Tahlequah and Stilwell, OK. They drove a team of horses with the usual piano load in the wagon behind. They could travel only about thirty miles a day so loaded. The roads were no more than trails through those Cookson Hills. Trees were blazed to show the way. They came to a place in the road where three trails divided, one no plainer than the other, and they didn't know which road lead to

Stilwell. There was an Indian shack nearby, so they trudged over to it. An Indian man with his squaw and three kids were sitting on the ground, but not one spoke a word. Mr. Howell asked which road they should take to get to Stilwell. The Indian man and all the family just sat there and said not a word. The male just shook his head. He gave no sign, he gave no show of understanding, he gave no directions. The salesman then offered the Indian a twenty-five cent piece to tell which road to take. Still nothing, not a sound or sign; he just sat there shaking his head. Finally, in desperation, Howell took a fifty cent piece out of his pocket and offered it as an inducement. Immediately there was action! The "guide" jumped up, grabbed the fifty cents, bounded over to the road and walked down the lane leading to Stilwell. Holding one arm stretched out in front of him and the other arm stretched out behind him, he walked for at least half a mile indicating the direction. The reason he walked such a distance was to be sure they were on the right track so they wouldn't come back to claim the fifty cent piece.

All the communities and towns planned a big celebration with a huge picnic. Everyone in the region, from far and near, would attend such a special affair. It was something very enticing, very exciting. The music store's salesman would haul an organ or piano along for a demonstration at the gala affair. This was a great way of showing off his wares, with many sales made.

A number of the largest picnics ever held were at St. Paul, AR when it was a booming lumber town with lots of money being made. Guisinger's would ship a freight car load of merchandise, including organs and pianos, to the picnic area. The railroad company would set the freight car right next to the picnic grounds with the merchandise being peddled directly from the car. Talk about freight car sales! The picnics tended to last three or four days. Any merchandise not sold was taken to somebody's home and left; sale to be consummated another time.

Most picnics were an annual event. Many families came

together in their wagons. Split bottom chairs made extra seats, and the children sat in the hay provided for the horses' noon meals. The trips were delightfully entertaining with thrills for everyone!

One and all loved the music of the fiddlers and the gay noise of the merry-go-round's calliope. Twelve-foot oak lumber was brought from the sawmill to build a platform for the musicians and the square dancers. It only cost a nickel to ride the merry-go-round. It was guaranteed to raise one's spirits as you rocked up and down, accompanied by that most thrilling music.

Teams, wagons, and saddle horses were tied everywhere. Crowds of people wandered over the spacious picnic area. Some would stop to listen to a speakin'. Many would visit with friends and kin-folks they hadn't seen since the last big gathering.

Families brought their homemade dinner in baskets. They went to their wagon to eat while their horses enjoyed their hay. Following the noonday repast, the picnickers adjourned to a big stand where they sat on a long bench to eat bowls of homemade ice cream. Gallons were available to all who wished to buy.

Customers often paid for their piano with horses which were later sold. Good money was made at horse sales. Sometimes land was traded for a piano. This was also a good trade as the land often had fine timber on it. The timber and land, both, could be sold for a profit. Then, too, the land might be held for speculation at a future date.

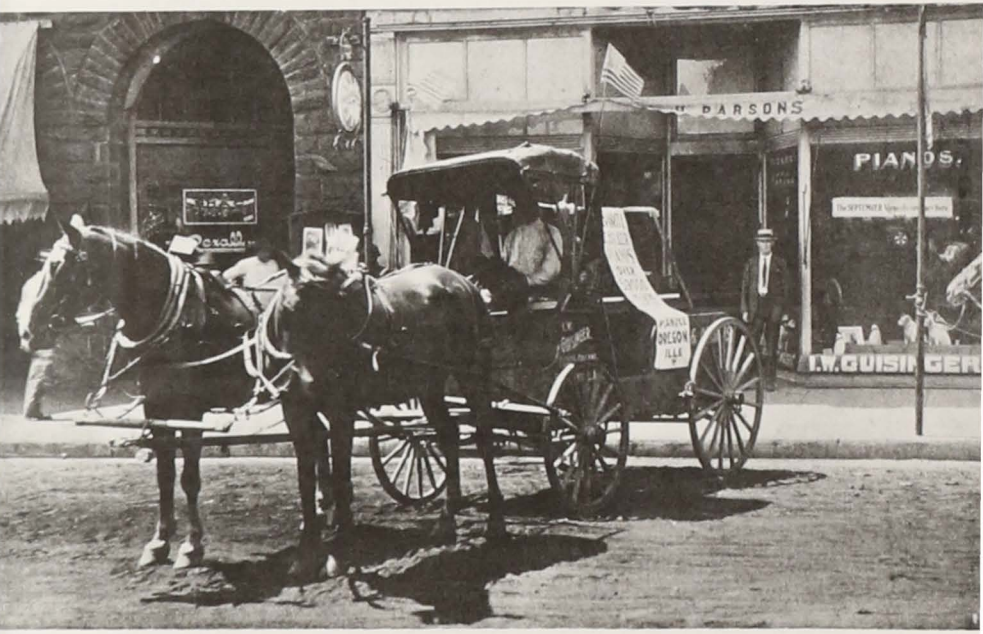
The music store was started before electric lights were available. Gasoline lights were used. Gasoline was pumped into a tank under pressure and released through a valve where it was ignited. These lamps gave good, bright illumination. Coal was burned in old fashioned big-bellied stoves for heat and comfort in the stores.

My Dad remembers when two pianos were shipped to Cass, AR where the railroad ended on top of the moun-

tain. The pianos were unloaded from a freight car, the back of the pianos had to be placed on poles in a log wagon, then transported down the rough log road to Cass itself.

Before there were any roads to the St. Paul Branch, teams could not be driven to any of the towns in that direction, so the selling agent would take a train, get off at one of its stops and proceed to work that town. If he sold a piano, it would be shipped by rail, unloaded onto a wagon, and so delivered. The agent would often walk from one town (on the St. Paul Branch) to the next one, a distance of about three miles. All travel to this part of the country was done by railroad, horseback, or on foot. But the money from the lumber industry made the townspeople good propsects for Guisinger's products.

The music store early on did a thriving business with Edison phonographs. At first, buyers would have to put



Two salesmen of the Guisinger Music House leaving Fayetteville Square with a piano. This instrument will be sold before they return.

rubber tubes in their ears to hear the machine make music off a wax cylinder. Later, those big tin horns were added. There were two sound reproducers, or boxes, with each machine. One of the boxes served as a recorder of your voice as you talked into the horn. Following this procedure, the talker put on the reproducer box and his voice was played back. Many people who lived in the distant hills would come into the store asking to see and hear this wonderful machine. They really were very skeptical of the stories about its performance. Oftentimes when they actually talked into the horn, had their voices recorded on the Edison cylinder and played back exactly as they had spoken, many still would not believe! The gadget was marvelous for advertising and promoting store traffic.

An oldtime grocery salesman, Mr. Charlie McCatherine, took one of these machines out to his territory when he went back to sell merchandise to the general stores on his route. He would set up the machine in one of his customers' stores. The folks enjoyed it so much they looked forward to his every trip just to hear this novelty. It gave real meaning to the word "new" and was surely different from anything they had ever seen or heard before.

From 1912 to 1914 more pianos were sold than at any other time in Guisinger's history. In fact, there were twice as many sold during these two years than ever before. Before World War I, the piano industry was the fourth business in the United States, even larger than either the oil or automobile industry. There were twice as many pianos manufactured in the year of 1912 than there are today (1960). Every family which could afford a piano bought one, whether or not it was used — just for prestige and pride in ownership.

With teams and by railroad, the music store's sales force covered eastern Oklahoma, southwest Missouri, and about one hundred square miles of northwestern Arkansas. Later on, when the drummers traveled by car or in a pickup truck, they delivered pianos as far south as Louisiana, many places in Texas, southern Arkansas, especially Little Rock, and in other nearby states. Pianos from the

The first automobile, truck, for the Guisinger Music House. Pianos were shipped to the store by freight train, then brought to the store via a small truck. Mr. G.H. Parsons had a jewlery store on one side of the music store. Note the "Victor" dog on the hood of the truck. This dog was a trademark for the Victor Company for many years and carried the slogan, "I hear my master's voice."

Guisinger Music House have been shipped to all parts of the United States, including as far away as California and North Carolina. One piano bought in Fayetteville was flown to South America. It was purchased by an exchange student at the University of Arkansas who sent it to his sister. Guisinger's has shipped organs, pianos and record players to Africa, Formosa and Japan. The instruments going to Africa were for missionaries there.

When the first pickup trucks came into operation, a trip to Springdale, AR (a distance of only ten miles) necessitated crossing a creek four times. Good roads had not been built. It took all day long to go to Claremore, consuming hours from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., covering a distance of one hundred and ten miles. There were many reasons for slow travel. The roads were bad, deeply rutted, terribly muddy after rains, and stumps remained in lots of places. Tires were poor and rocks were sharp. Tire repair was done by kit at the side of the trail. At the end of a trip

the driver would brag about how few "flats" he had or complain about the many repairs he had had to do. The first trucks were not warm in severe weather. Their lights were dimly poor and often would not work. When coming home after dark, a traveller was forced to use a flashlight more often than not. There were not windshield wipers, so driving through rain or snow was made that much more hazardous. For these reasons, lots of instruments were shipped by rail even after the business was operating with trucks.

Many times a carload of twenty-five pianos were shipped to Claremore, OK. A salesman would drive a truck over there and put the pianos in a store building, from which they were sold to people in town and neighboring spots.

There were many Osage Indians living around Claremore. They were getting rich from oil royalties and were good spenders; bought lots of pianos.

One time my Mother went with Dad to Claremore where they checked up on some pianos already on display. In the showroom, Mother was sitting by a player piano as it performed. An Osage Indian chief, dressed in native regalia, came in and stood quietly behind her, listening raptly. He was so enthralled he did not think of anything else. The thought never came to mind that his presence could frighten. When Mother glanced around and saw him, she gave a startled scream. The old chief assured her, "Me won't hurt you, little girl." Dad teased Mother about this for a long time. The Indian stayed, absorbed in the music from various player pianos. After he had observed the entire selection, he picked out the one he wanted. The very next day he brought his family in to see if his choice was their choice. They all agreed on his selection and bought it.

It was Mother's first time to see Indians in their own territory and she became interested in the Indian costumes. None of the members of the chief's family wore white man's attire. The blankets draped about them were beautifully colorful. Many a day the chief would change

his costume and his beaded moccasins several times. It was an exciting pageant to see.

In 1922 my grandfather extended his music business to include a branch store in Springdale. A few years later he put in two other branches, one in Bentonville, AR and another in Muskogee, OK.

In 1942 he retired. He then devoted much of his time to farming and his orchard business. For many years he had continued with his farming interests even while operating the successful music business. He also devoted his energies to civic projects until a few years before his death in 1947.

He was among Fayetteville's most active civic workers. He was a member of and at one time served as director of the Rotary Club. He became a director of the First National Bank, a member of the Board of Stewards and Trustees of the Central Methodist Church. His reputation claimed him a leader and a builder of Fayetteville.

When he retired, his two sons, Paul and Carlos, took over the music business. Carlos managed the business office as bookkeeper, while Paul managed other areas of the business. They were well trained to take over this business, as they had been learning the ups and downs for more than twenty years. Dad traveled as a salesman, worked in various departments, and took great interest. I truly believe Dad was qualified to follow in the footsteps of Grandfather, the founder of Guisinger Music House.

All pictures with this story are copies from photos in the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

This photo was to be included in the wonderful book about their schools published by the Retired Teachers Association of Washington County, titled "School Days, School Days..'". Mrs. Kenneth (Lorean) Tillstson directed the picture to WCHS. Her mother, Mrs. Mabel Bement (see photo) Anderson left it to her. Mrs. Anderson happily did a proper job of identifying the group, which is a chore that a vast majority of folks do not do. Good identification increases the historical worth of a photo at least a thousand times.

Tommy Rollins, whose grandfather gave the land for the school, attended there when it was known as Sycamore 100. Tommy's father, Arvil Robbins, and Uncle Rube, sons of the landowner, are shown. At the time of the photographing the school was called Sycamore Springs after a water source nearby that has long ago disappeared. The building is still standing at the original site and is being used as a meeting place and church.

A limited number of "School Days, School Days.." is being republished. The cost of $30 includes a thorough index, as well as postage. Copies are going fast, so send your order now to John Fox, 1145 Bonnie Lane, Fayetteville, AR 72703.

Miss Luella Hedrick, teacher, forefront. Girls, first row: ---Collins, Rose Collins, Lou Rollins, Mary Blew Barnett, Mabel Bement Anderson, Marian Bement (twins), Annie McWaters.

Girls, second row: Katie Collins, Minnie Mount, Leona Bement, Katie Hulse, Carrie Hutchinson, Nettie Harmon Burnett, Lottie Harmon Draper, Lillie Banks.

Third row: Mattie Sullivan, Carrie Busey, Pearl Palmer, Bertie Banks, Lou McWaters.

Fourth row: Willie and Mattie Busey (twins), Nina Palmer Newport, Julia McDaniels, Dilla Sullivan Nelson, Nora Mount Lively, Ella and Addie Busey (twins), Julia Sullivan, Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Bonham (visitors).

Boys, first row: Roy Busey, Brint Neal, Arvil Rollins, Rube Rollins, --- Collins, Bud McWaters.

Second row: Frank Palmer, Unidentified, Charlie Hutchinson, Charlie Collins, Jessie Collins, Earl Blew, Colonel Blew, Elmer Bement.

Third row: Guy Taylor, Henry Sullivan, John Banks, Hugh Rollins, Leonard Collins.

Fourth row: Jim Hutchinson, John Hune, James Newport, Claud Blew, one unidentified.

RIEFS CHAPEL SCHOOL

(A footnote to SCHOOL DAYS, SCHOOL DAYS, The History of Education in Washington County, published by the Retired Teachers Association of Washington County.)

The following information will add to what is known about School District #12, Riefs Chapel, located five and one-half miles southwest of Fayetteville, AR.

I am a descendant of Jacob Cox who lived in this community, and all of his children attended school at this building. My father, the youngest child of Lilbern Franklin Cox, attended school here and is in the photograph on page 159 of the reference book. He is the fourth boy from the right, with his hair parted in the middle. He is in the front row: Alvis Earl Cox, age 8 years. The teacher is John Jones.

I inherited my father's slate, slate pencil, an old hand-held school bell, a blue-backed speller, a geography book he used in the seventh grade, a history of Arkansas and an American Literature book (from which the first 18 pages are missing). Inside the back cover of this late book is written the following:

Girls of 1901 and 1902 Rief Chapel School:

Mamie Greathouse	Coda (Cora ?) Wise	Phelta Everdean
Maud Whitechurch	Lena Edwards	Verdie Barkdrawl
Velma Carter	Meg See	Rosa Sage
Lula Maniece	Ethel See	Carrie Ghering

On the opposite page is written a "memory" by a girl named Ethel See. "Remember me and Happy may you always be. Written by a friend and school mate."

Alvis Earl Cox attended at Riefs Chapel through 1908.

Submitted by his daughter, Ms. Mamie Elizabeth Cox-Parker, 1412 S.W. 54 Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73119

(Note: Although Mrs. Cox-Parker refers to the schools as Rief's Chapel, former articles about the school and cemetery call it "Rieff" or "Rieff's". Apparently local usage differs on the correct spelling.)

1840-1862

WINDOW ON THE FRONTIER

The Early Newspapers of Washington County, Arkansas

by Kim Allen Scott

FLASHBACK is very happy to present a thesis written by our WCHS director, Kim Scott. It is a work done for love of its subject, but also as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for a degree of Master of Arts. Kim is now a historian with the Special Collections Department in Mullins Library on the University of Arkansas campus at Fayetteville. We intend to publish the entire thesis over a period of time, tentatively arranged in five consecutive issues of our quarterly. Here, then, are the first two chapters. Five more will follow. Enjoy!

Chapter I - Introduction

It was a charred remnant of Fayetteville that Brigadier General Alexander Asboth managed to capture on February 23, 1862. The Union commander reached the outskirts of town by mid-morning and met little resistance from the few rebel pickets that remained behind. Asboth ordered elements from the Third Iowa Cavalry to sweep the area around the devastated town square, still smoldering from fires set the day before by the retreating Southern army. The Iowa troopers exchanged shots with a handful of Confederate soldiers, captured two officers, and raised the American flag at the courthouse shortly before 11:20 a.m. One of the few buildings on the square left intact, the courthouse yielded an unexpected prize for the conquerors who searched inside: a "portable printing press."[1] It was the only survivor of three machines that had been in Fayetteville before the Federal's arrival, and, ironically, the only one that had had any military connection. Fire had claimed the city's other printing offices and had ended

prematurely the lives of Washington County's first really successful newspapers.

The newspapers which had blossomed in antebellum Washington County, Arkansas, between 1840 and 1862 were examples of frontier journalism in the various stages of development described by historians of the western pioneer press. Washington County, bordering the sparsely settled Indian Territory and isolated from the rest of Arkansas by rugged mountainous terrain, underwent a lengthy period of settlement which spawned five separate journals during the decades preceding the Civil War. Each of these publications is both a window into the social history of its community and an example of one or more different traits which distinguish frontier journalism from newspapering in more recent times. It is my intention to identify those characteristic earmarks of frontier journalism found in Washington County's early newspapers, to correct long-held errors presented in reference works on the subject, and to describe the relationship of the printing office to the rest of the community and its institutions.

Before the presentation of a chronological account of the early newspapers of Washington County, it will be necessary to identify some of the peculiarities of pioneer newspapers as described by other historians. This task is not as simple as it sounds, for as William Lyon has pointed out, little research has been done on the role of newspapers in the American frontier process.[2] Lyon, an authority on the pioneer editors of Missouri, has written an informative study on the early newspapers of that state in which he considers publishers as "mirrors" of the society in which they found themselves.[3] Newspapermen had to represent the values and beliefs of the majority of their readership or they would quickly find themselves without moral or financial support. Rhoda Ellison, a student of frontier journalism in Alabama, corroborates this assertion of editorial conformity and presents some of the same characteristics in Alabama newspapers that Lyon found in the Missouri press.[4] By acting as a "mirror" to their contemporaries, early newspapermen produced publications

that provide a "window" through which today's historian can look into the past.

Other traits of frontier journalism identified by historians will be discussed in greater detail in the course of this paper, but for identification purposes they shall be briefly itemized here.

Logistics

Frontier journalism, not surprisingly, was newspapering conducted in a frontier region. Isolated western communities like Fayetteville, served by irregular mail delivery and blockaded by enormous transportation obstacles, were the setting in which pioneer editors set up their shops. Newspapers were established in spite of, and in reaction to, these geographic barriers: the same terrain that hindered the printer's supply lines also delayed communication to the isolated settlers, making them more receptive for purchasing the printer's product. In antebellum Washington County, timely news, as well as vital supplies such as ink and paper, remained chronically scarce.

Editorial Mission

The enlightenment and education of the frontier community, especially in matters political, along with the presentation of the editor's opinions on his community and the world, defined the mission of newspapering on the western frontier prior to the Civil War. State and national affairs were the leading concerns of the early editors, while local news, aside from commercial "puffery," was of secondary importance. In this particular aspect of state and national editorial emphasis, the early newspapers of Washington County differed from journals of the far west after the Civil War. After examining some of these later newspapers, Oliver Knight has concluded that the pioneer editor was a catalyst for social change and that the frontier newspaper, devoted to closing the frontier, was a self-destructing mechanism.[5] David Halaas agreed with this view of the newspaper as an active agent of change in his examination of the journals of the Rocky Mountain min-

ing frontier. Town-boosting and the reporting of local news, Halaas observed, were frequent subjects of editorial expression.[6] The early newspapers of Washington County progressed steadily toward the active role described by Knight and Halaas, but throughout the decades prior to the Civil War they remained essentially a mirror, rather than a catalyst, of social change.[7]

Economic Structure

Frontier newspapers depended heavily on public printing, such as legal notices and legislative records. Advertising, frequently the best record of the community's social and commercial life presented by the journals, never provided enough income to support the publishers, nor did the miniscule list of subscribers who patronized the gazettes. So small and uncertain were the returns from advertising and subscriptions that editors often extended credit to merchants and readers far beyond limits that would be tolerated today. Even when payment was forthcoming, a newspaperman needed to have the flexibility to accept his pittance in cabbages as well as greenbacks from customers in a cash-scarce society. To supplement the meager returns netted by the newspaper, the proprietor of the frontier printing office also actively solicited and produced all types of job printing in addition to the publication of his newspaper.

Personal Journalism

The editors of Washington County's first newspapers practiced a form of published expression that researchers have described as "personal journalism."[8] Personal journalism was a combination of the editor's own flamboyance of language along with an emphasis on topics that would appeal to the lowest common denominator among his readership. Even while acting within the limiting restraints of subscriber approval, the pioneer editor was fiercely independent. He operated in a time when libel laws were unknown or unenforced and when a printed insult could bring a physical challenge for combat more readily than a court summons. The possibility of facing the cold muzzle of a dueling pistol does not appear to have dampened the

early newspapermen's ardor for controversy, and their independent spirit prevented them from cooperating with other members of their fraternity in matters of financial policy such as subscription rates and pay scales. Lyon has identified the establishment of statewide newspaper associations as one of the harbingers of modern journalism.[9] Editors meeting regularly to standardize policy and prices could not help but to eliminate much of the independent flair which marked the early years of publishing.

These editors also seemed to be drawn to the profession by something like a belief in a higher calling. The editor's conviction regarding his higher calling in the frontier community is partially illustrated by the fact that he chose the profession to begin with. Newspapers were notoriously poor investments from a business standpoint and were established in backwoods communities in spite of genuine hardships. That men turned to the enterprise knowing of its drawbacks speaks of a motivation other than monetary. Among the men who established Washington County's first newspapers were two attorneys, an art teacher, and three professional printers, but they all produced, at least once during their editorial careers, laudatory essays describing the nobility of their chosen profession and the utmost necessity of its product.

Conclusion

So far the role of frontier journalism has been presented in terms which concentrate on the newspaper as a document, but the practice of printing on the American Frontier was a process as well as a product. The printing office in isolated western communities was a gathering place for the exchange of information beyond that which was published in the newspaper. The particulars of Washington County's early newspapers regarding logistics, editorial mission, economic structure, and personal journalism will be described in the course of this paper, but the description of the printing office as an information center of the community deserves more explanation at the outset,

since it has been the object of so little inquiry among journalism historians.

NOTES

[1]United States War Department, *The War of the Rebellion; A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1880-1901), Ser. I, Vol. III, p. 70.

[2]William H. Lyon, "The Significance of Newspapers on the American Frontier," *The Journal of the West* 19 (April 1980):3.

[3]William H. Lyon, *The Pioneer Editor in Missouri, 1808-1860* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1965).

[4]Rhoda Ellison, "Newspaper Publishing in Frontier Alabama," *Journalism Quarterly* 23 (1946): 289-301.

[5]Oliver Knight, "The Frontier Newspaper as a Catalyst in Social Change," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 58 (April 1967): 74-81.

[6]David F. Halaas, *Boom Town Newspapers: Journalism on the Rocky Mountain Mining Frontier, 1859-1881* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1981), p. 99.

[7]Knight, "Frontier Newspaper," p. 80. In noting the active role he assigns the pioneer editor, Knight admits that "there may be important differences between western newspapers before and after the Civil War."

[8]Halaas, pp. 62-64.

[9]Lyon, "Significance of Newspapers," p. 9

Chapter II: The Newspaper Office

A frontier newspaper was part of its physical setting as much as the contents of the document itself. The social history of the antebellum western newspaper office is a fascinating subject, but the historical record yields little information on this topic. The relationship of the printers among themselves and with the community at large is only hinted at in the newspapers they produced. Personal recollections, public documents, and ocassionally rare photographs are the other sources which can assist the researcher in reconstructing the workplace of the frontier journalist. Sidney Korbe has provided an excellent blueprint for inquiry on the topic of journalistic social history and has called on the historian to "relate the newspaper as an institution to its age."[1]

Near to the center of a western village, close to the post office and courthouse, is where the pioneer editor would establish his business. Choosing a commercial building in close proximity to communication and governmental headquarters had obvious advantages for the newspaperman. He was a businessman himself, engaged in the

demanding profession of issuing information to his constituents, and by locating visibly amongst the town's merchants and professionals he became identified with, and accessible to, the commercial community.

The most likely gathering place for exchanging information in a frontier community, aside from the post office, courthouse, and tavern, was the printing office. Fronting the street, usually beneath a huge sign bearing the name of the paper, and a smaller one offering job printing services, was the door to this special business enterprise. Once inside, a visitor would find himself in the "sanctum" of the editor, sometimes a room by itself, or, more often, merely a disheveled desk and chair parked in the front corner of a large room that also served as the printing plant. The walls would be plastered with pictures clipped from illustrated exchange papers, calendars, images of Mercury (the messenger of the gods), or the ever-popular George Washington. Sometimes an editor would display his own artistic efforts, such as Fayetteville's William Quesenbury whose desk was surrounded by sketches he drew and tacked to the walls of his office.

In the sanctum could be found letters from correspondents back east and piles of exchange papers from other offices scattered around the country. Here, too, merchants awaited the editor's attention with lists of goods currently on hand for sale, while farmers brought in unusually large specimens from their vegetable gardens and a disgruntled subscriber loudly took issue with some article he had found objectionable. The editor was accessible to all visitors, those who wished to offer a "treat" as a not-so-subtle inducement for free publicity, and those who felt moved to enlighten the journalist over the proper course for his publication. Samuel Clemens once recollected the parades of this last type of visitor in his brother's Missouri printing office before the Civil War:

> Every man on the town list helped edit the thing; that is, he gave orders as to how it was to be edited; projected its opinions, marked out its course of pro-

cedure for it, and every time the boss failed to connect, he stopped his paper. We were just infested with critics and advisers.[2]

Occasionally it was the activities of the workers in the pressroom that drew idle spectators, such as an itinerant Alabama typesetter described by Rhoda Ellison who excited a crowd by wagering on his speed at the typecase.[3]

Beyond the editor's sanctum was the printing plant itself. Usually what dominated the center of the room was not a printing press but a large stove. (Good printing demanded proper temperature control or the ink would refuse to cooperate). Also near the center of the room was the imposing stone, a heavy, flat-surfaced block of marble or granite on which type forms were planed level before being placed in the press. Type cases, large shallow wooden drawers with separate compartments for each letter of the alphabet, would be found stored in racks close to the walls. In the decades preceeding the Civil War, typesetting was performed in a manner which had changed little since the days of Gutenberg. A printer would hold a small adjustable metal container called a composing stick in his left hand while gathering type letters, one at a time, from their respective compartments in the case with his right hand, placing them in neat alignment within the composing stick. It was a long, slow, laborious process and compositors were paid by measuring the amount of matter set rather than the time it took to do it. Once the composing stick was filled, the printer carefully emptied it into a shallow metal tray with three sides called a galley and returned to his task of filling the composing stick again. When all the type for a particular article of column was completed, a proof was taken by pressing a sheet of paper over the inked type in the galley. The proof was then corrected, with varying degrees of accuracy, by the shop foreman or the editor himself. The final stage of preparing the type for printing was performed by sliding it off the galley onto the imposing stone, arranging it into parallel columns, and then wedging the entire assemblage tightly

within a heavy iron frame called a chase. Locking up, as this last process was called, was the most crucial phase of printing, for if the type was not wedged in properly before taking the chase to the press it would spill into a mass of jumbled letters that would take hours, if not days, to sort through. "Pieing" type was the most serious mishap imaginable to a nineteenth century printer.

The final piece of equipment in the office was the printing press itself. In the 1820's, technological advancements in the form of ink rollers and cylinder presses began to streamline the presswork in eastern American newspaper offices, but for a printer on the frontier these faster presses were an unnecessary expense. The press most commonly used on the frontier, before and after the Civil War, was the hand lever model, known by manufacturer's names such as the Ramage or Washington press. These presses, like the type cases, operated similarly to those in use during the Renaissance. A toggle joint, or screw apparatus, mounted between a sturdy cross frame, was activated by a pull on a large hand lever. The pull would cause the momentary lowering of a platen surface which applied pressure to a blank piece of paper placed atop ink-dampened type. The speed with which copies could be produced on a Washington press was much slower than those produced by a cylinder model, but since the number of copies needed to supply a frontier editor's subscription list was usually quite small, the press run itself took the least amount of time needed to publish a newspaper. The slowest process, that of setting the type, could only be accelerated by increasing the number of workmen.

Frontier editors often found themselves called from their desks to take on the labors of typesetting when workers were unavailable or beyond the limited cash resources of the office. To completely fill all the columns of a weekly, four-page newspaper at least four skilled workers would be required. For most of the week, these printers would spend their days standing at the cases either assembling type for printing, or distributing it back into the cases after it had been used. Only one day of the work week would be used

for the actual printing, and at those times the office was at its busiest. A pressman would stand at the press, placing a fresh sheet of paper on a hinged carrier called a tympan while another worker applied ink to the face of the type below. Ink was either smeared on by patting the leaden alphabet with a saturated ball of sheepskin, or rolled on with a brayer. The pressman would then fold the tympan over the moistened type and position the two under the platen. A sturdy pull on the lever would complete the imprint, and a third worker would remove the printed newspaper while the others began the process all over again.

The practice of printing in the mid-19th century, unlike any other manual trade, demanded a literate workman. Erasmus once grumbled that it took more training to become a baker than a printer, but the truth is that mastery of the Black Art in the decades preceding the Civil War came to a tradesman only after years of apprenticeship and learning. During his lengthy weaning time, a worker not only gained agility in assembling type forms, but also absorbed the ancient traditions and folkways of his trade. The constant rendering of handscrawled copy into neatly arranged metal typefaces made even the dullest practitioner more familiar with literature, both high and low, than the average skilled tradesman and provided an education that in many ways surpassed that of the elementary schoolhouse. In a rural community where agricultural and handcraft industry were the pursuits of the majority, printers could easily find themselves in an informational niche between the professional elites such as lawyers and doctors and the mass of the working community. William Dean Howells reminisced on the printers of a rural Ohio newspaper office in the 1850's that was probably similar to ones found further west:

> There was always a good deal of talk going on, but although we were very ardent politicians, the talk was not political. When it was not mere banter, it was mostly literary; we disputed about authors

among ourselves, and with the village wits who dropped in.[4]

The editors of newspapers in the Eastern United States had the luxury of hiring from a continual flow of traveling printers, although advocates or organized labor among typesetters were attempting to regulate their nomadic brethren in the 1850's. William Pretzer had distinguished this earlier phase of mobile printing workers from the later era following the Civil War, when the "tramp printer" became somewhat of an institution.[5] The Western newspaperman did not face the pressure of organized labor as much as the problem of no labor at all. In the demanding business of producing column after column of closely leaded type week after week, the pioneer editor turned to the most practical solution available: he trained his own typesetters. "There are three young men in the office," wrote Hiram Whittington, a journeyman printer to the *Arkansas Gazette* in 1830, "all of whom have been entered since I came here, and consequently have learned all that they know of the printing business from your humble servant, Hiram."[6] The continual training program conducted by the backwoods printing offices of the United States increased the number of "two-thirders," or young men who learned enough of the trade to gain competency and then moved on before completing their apprenticeship. Ironically, the same rural printing establishments were often the main employers of two-thirders, for editors facing publication deadlines were in no position to question the available labor. Occasionally a printer would train members of his own family to play the "devil", such as Alabama editor Thomas M. Davenport whom Ellison reports as having his two daughters setting type for the Tuscaloosa *American Mirror*. [7]

The nature of apprenticeship with the antebellum newspapers of Washington County can only be hinted at. In the eastern United States during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, a boy learned the printing trade by signing an indenture binding him to his master until the

age of twenty-one. Upon successful completion of his apprenticeship, a printer journeyman was honored at a banquet and sometimes given a cash award by his employer. Apprenticeship indentures are numerous in the Washington County Miscellaneous Records book, but they are almost entirely for the trade of "farmer." The farmer's indentures read similarly to the one signed in New York by William E. Woodruff in 1809 when he first began to learn the printer's trade.[8] The Washington County indentures also resemble those described by Rollo Silver in his study of early nineteenth century printers, [9] and place a special emphasis on temperance:

> Said apprentice shall faithfully serve his said master, keep his secrets, obey his lawful commands...he shall not play cards, dice, or any other unlawful game...he shall not haunt or frequent taverns, tippling houses, or places of gaming...[10]

Regardless if the apprenticeship agreements were formal indentures or casual, makeshift training programs, the early newspapermen of Washington County did not train their own workers on several occasions. The evidence of this training, and that showing the printing office as an information center to the frontier community, will be demonstrated in the course of this study.

NOTES

[1]Sidney Korbe, "The Sociological Approach in Research in Newspaper History," *Journalism Quarterly* 22, (1945): 15.

[2]Samuel Clemens, "Mark Twain and the Old-Fashioned Printer," ed. Alice D. Schreyer, *Printing History* 6, (1981): 35.

[3]Ellison, "Newspaper Publishing," p. 296.

[4]William Dean Howells, "The Country Printer," *Printing History* 4, (1980): 33.

[5]William S. Pretzer, "Tramp Printers: Craft Culture, Trade Unions, and Technology," *Printing History* 12, (1984): 3-16.

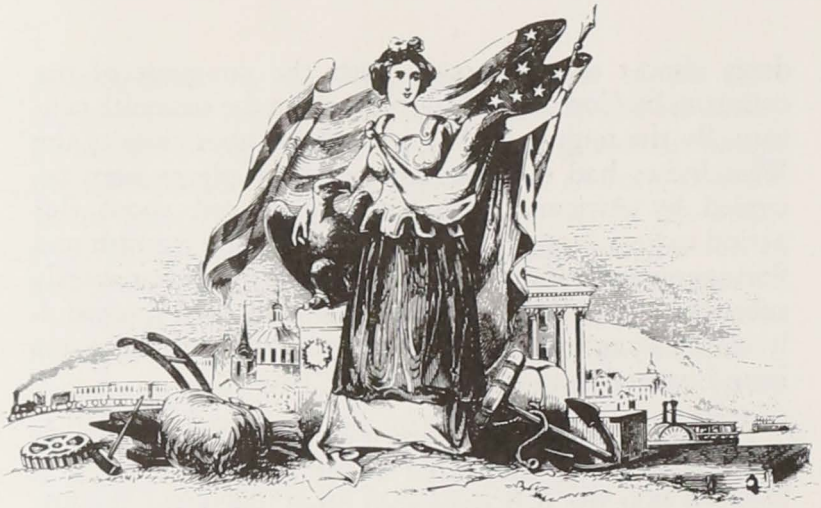
[6]Hiram A. Whittington, *Letters of Hiram Abiff Whittington: An Arkansas Pioneer from Massachusetts, 1827-1834*, ed. Margaret Ross, (Little Rock: Pulaski County Historical Society, 1956), p. 18.

[7]Ellison, "Newspaper Publishing," p. 295.

[8]Margaret Ross, *Arkansas Gazette: The Early Years 1819-1860*, (Little Rock: Arkansas Gazette Foundation, 1969), p. 5.

[9]Rollo G. Silver, *The American Printer: 1787-1825*, (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1967), p. 4.

[10]Washington County Miscellaneous Records Book, 1840-1878, pp. 9-10.



PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE EIGHTH CENSUS

by Jos. C.G. Kennedy

The 1860 Census was taken under the leadership of Joseph Camp Griffith Kennedy, a most distinguished statistician of the period. He submitted a descriptive report to the Senate in May, 1862, just on the eve of the Civil War. Here, in Kennedy's own words, are excerpts from that report which your editor thought particularly interesting to FLASHBACK readers 126 years later.

Slavery

FOR MORE THAN THREE AND A HALF CENTURIES slavery has existed in the West Indies. Indians from the American coast were conveyed to St. Domingo and Cuba in large numbers. The plea for the capture and employment of the aborigines was their conversion to Christianity, which but few lived long to enjoy, as, under the effects of labor and the climate, they died with a rapidity too shocking to contemplate.

This circumstance directed the attention of the Spaniards to Africa, from which country slaves were imported about the year 1503, the licenses for that object greatly enriching the Spanish exchequer for a long period after. The introduction of Africans into Brazil and Peru

dates almost simultaneously with the conquest of the countries by Cortez and Pizarro, early in the sixteenth century. By the middle of that century the aborigines of the West Indies had disappeared, and their places were occupied by Africans, who were introduced about this period in very large numbers throughout the Spanish and Portuguese possessions in South Africa. It was but shortly subsequent that English adventurers embarked successfully in the slave trade, which they pursued under charters from Elizabeth and James I.

The first negro slaves were imported into Virginia in 1619, where they numbered about 2,000 in 1670. It is believed that the first slave ship fitted out in the English colonies sailed from Boston in 1646. In 1624 the French introduced slaves into their island of St. Christopher, and soon after into Martinique and Guadeloupe, and shortly established slavery in all their American colonies. The Dutch embarked in the traffic with other civilized nations; so that the conclusion is inevitable that all the enlightened nations of the world who enjoyed any extended commerce simultaneously participated in a trade now deemed contraband, and towards which the world is now as equally united in hostility. Had slavery continued to expand in numbers in other parts of America as it has grown in the United States, there would at the present time be more than 21,000,000 of this class of persons in the United States and the British, French, Spanish, and Brazilian possessions. It is believed, however, that in all American countries and islands of our seas, except in the United States, the number of slaves was only maintained from time to time by the prosecution of the slave trade. While slavery in North America extended, in 1775, from and including the Canadian provinces to Florida, its northern limit has been generally contracting, while indications clearly point to its western termini, which have doubtless been already attained. The importation of slaves to the United States was interdicted by law in 1808. In 1774 the legislature of Rhode Island interdicted the importation of slaves into that colony, and the next year enacted a law of

emancipation by declaring the children of all slave mothers to be born, free. Massachusetts abolished slavery by her bill of rights in 1780. In 1784 Connecticut barred the introduction of slaves, and declared all born after the 1st of March of that year free at the age of 26. Pennsylvania, in 1780, by law prohibited the introduction of slaves, and declared free all children of slave mothers born thereafter. Virginia prohibited the introduction of slaves from abroad in 1778; Maryland in 1783. New Hampshire abolished slavery in 1792; New York in 1799; New Jersey in 1820. Such has been the progress and decline of African slavery in our country, where its severities have been humanity compared with other countries, and where, although among the last to cling to the institution, the traffic in this class of persons was first seriously, as it has been persistently, opposed. It may not be out of place to state that the American States, which in the past century abolished slavery, permitted the free colored population to enjoy every right consistent with their condition as a class, and allowed bond and free to remain during their natural lives in the State or colony where they lived. This fact, although sometimes questioned, can be demonstrated beyond civil; and the contrary can only be urged by such as are unfamiliar with the subject or have an object in the misrepresentation. The plan of gradual emancipation probably tended to this result, as those who were living in bondage continued to be slaves, while their descendants were generally to become free at such period as they were qualified to maintain their own existence by labor.

An examination of the relative number at different successive periods, until slavery became extinct, must lead to conclusions that no material deportation of slaves occurred shortly before or after the passage of emancipation acts — a fact which cannot be controverted; and while it must be conceded that the northern people prosecuted the slave trade at an early period with energy and thrift, they are entitled to the award of sincerity and honesty in giving the earliest examples of the abolition of the institution of slavery within their own borders.

A new element has been developed by the present census, viz: that of the statistics of negro slavery among the Indian tribes west of Arkansas, comprising the Choctaw, Cherokee, Creek, and Chickasaw nations; also the number of white and free colored population scattered throughout these tribes. The Choctaws held 2,297 negro slaves, distributed among 385 owners; the Cherokees, 2,504, held by 384 owners; the Creeks, 1,651, owned by 267 Indians; and the Chickasaws, 917 to 118 owners. As, under all the circumstances of slavery everywhere, the servile race is very unequally distributed, so will appear to be the case with the Indian tribes. While one Choctaw is the owner of 227 slaves, and ten of the largest proprietors own 638, averaging nearly 64, the slaves average about six to each owner of slaves in that tribe, while the Indians number about as eight to one slave.

With regard to manumission it appears from the returns that during the census year they numbered a little more than 3,000, being more than double the number who were liberated in 1850, or at the rate of one each to 1,309.

The number of slaves who escaped from their masters in 1860 is not only much less in proportion than in 1850, but greatly reduced numerically. The greatest increase of escapes appears to have occurred in Mississippi, Missouri, and Virginia, while the decrease is most marked in Delaware, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, and Tennessee.

That the complaint of insecurity to slave property by the escape of this class of persons into the free States, and their recovery impeded, whereby its value has been lessened, is the result of misapprehension is evident, not only from the small number who have been lost to their owners, but from the fact that up to the present time the number of escapes has been gradually diminishing to such an extent that the whole annual loss to the southern States from this cause bears less proportion to the amount of capital involved than the daily variations which in ordinary times occur in the fluctuations of State government securities in the city of New York alone.

QUERIES

Carolyn Brown, 222 South Van, Pryor, OK 74361: Isn't anyone in our Society trying to trace either the DAVIS or YEAGER families who lived near Lincoln, AR. I have been successful in tracing part of them and would be happy to share what I have found. Alexander S. Davis, b. ca 1824 in KY and Deborah PURVIANCE, b. ca 1829 in IL, married about 1849. They appear on the 1850 census as Alley and Debby Davis in Tazewell County, IL, Little Mackinaw Twp. On the 1860 census in Tazewell Co. they have four children: (1) Narcissus Davis, b. ca 1851; (2) Elsina Davis, b. ca 1853; (3) Alex B. Davis, b. 13 May 1856; (4) Amanda Davis, b. 1858. I haven't had the time to look for them on the 1870 census in IL, but I know they are not in Washington County, AR at that time. They came to AR sometime before 1878, however, because my great-grandfather, Alex B. Davis, married my great-grandmother Emmaline Yeager there on 11 August 1878. On the Washington County, AR census in 1880, Alexander and Deborah have three more children listed: (5) Orien A. Davis, b. 1869 m. Emma Snodgrass 12 Nov. 1896; (6) Midenie Davis, b. 1865; (7) Lisa/Lura E. Davis, b. 1867. Obviously, there could have been additional children born in IL. I am not sure whether the girls (Narcissus, Elsina and Amanda) came to AR from IL or not. I have only just found out that they existed. Perhaps someone else can help me continue my research. Alexander S. and Deborah Davis are both buried in the Lincoln Cemetery in Lincoln, AR. On the Yeager side of the family I have been able to establish a direct line back to Adam YAGER who came from Germany many years before the Revolution in 1776. I would like to continue my research through the MORRIS and MITCHELL families since these women — Sarah Morris was married to James E. Yeager and both are buried in Beaty Cemetery, and Elmira/Almira/Miry Jane Mitchell was married to Solomon (S.N.) Yeager and they are also buried in the Beaty Cemetery in Lincoln. I have been putting together a

list of the children born to Solomon and "Miry" and by going back through census records I've come up with what I think may be a fairly accurate list of them. The first child was born in TN, and all the rest in Washington County: (1) Thomas, b. ca 1851 in TN; (2) James, b. ca 1855; (3) Elias, b. ca 1858 m. Ada WORLEY 5 July 1886; (4) Edie Emmeline, b. 10 Nov. 1859 m. Alex DAVIS 11 August 1878; Benjamon, b. ca 1862; (6) Redmon, b. 1865. d. 1942; (7) S. Lee, b. ca 1868; (8) Mary Jane, b. ca 1870, m. M.C. COOPER 3 August 1887; (9) Sarah E., b. 6 July 1872, d. 2 June 1878; (10) Belle (Nora Belle), b. ca 1875, m. J.H. BIBB 3 October 1895.

The Yeagers moved to Washington County between 1851 and 1855. My father and his brothers and sisters remember hearing Grandmother Emma tell about the fact that her father and oldest brother were in the Civil War. Her brother, she said, was not a soldier but a drummer or flag bearer. Both came home from the war unhurt. However, the family had suffered at the hands of renegades during their abscence. Grandmother had a vivid recollection of the last Thanksgiving before the war ended. The family had had no money and very little meat. They had been saving one old hen so they could have a Thanksgiving day "feast". They fixed the meal and were preparing to eat when they heard horsemen riding up to their farm. The oldest children grabbed the pot containing the stewed chicken and ran to the barn. When they returned to the house the renegades were slapping their mother around and trying to make her tell them where the food was — obviously they could smell it had been prepared. The children could not stand to see their mother treated that way and so they brought the food back to the house. Grandmother said that the men sat down and ate everything they had prepared for Thanksgiving and didn't allow the children or their mother to have any of the food. As young as she was — probably about six — she always swore that she had memorized the faces of those renegades and that she would recognize them if she ever saw them again. She had made herself a promise to make them pay

for that unspeakable crime and she never forgot it.

I am also curious to know about Mary Mitchell, age 61, b. in TN, who is living with Solomon and Miry Jane in 1860. Is she the same Mary Mitchell, mother of L.N. Yeager, who is buried in the Beaty Cemetery close to Miry and Solomon? Was she Miry's mother? There is also a Sallie Yeager, age 60, b. TN, who is living with Solomon and Miry in 1870. Who was she?

Dwight Lynn Alford, Route 2, Box 103, Morrison, TN 37357 is seeking information on the YELL and TAYLOR family tree.

Dorothy Keck, 640 Caliente Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550: HELP! I am researching the John ROGERS (RODGERS) family. Wife was Agnes P. VANCE, both born in Tennessee. Where did they die and where are they buried? Their daughter, Agnes D., born 1834 in Illinois (?) and married — ROBINS (ROBBINS). Need marriage date, death date, and where buried.

NOTICES: Descendants of Jacob GABBARD and Susanna BOWMAN will hold their first family reunion July 16th at the Huntsville Community Center, 12 o'clock til 4:00 p.m. (Hall Walls, Powell, Creech, Wells, Gentry, Stephes). Contact Virginia Threet, 1875 South Custer Lane, Fayetteville, AR 72701, 501-521-6459.

NOTICES: *The Chew Family Newsletter*, covering all branches of the Chew surname and allied lineages will be published quarterly at a cost of $15.00 yearly; unlimited free queries. Contact Frances Brengle, 6619 Pheasant Road, Baltimore, MD 21220.

Richard C. Reed, 15507 E. 42nd Terr., Independence, MO 64055 seeks information on the REED family which settled in early times in the Shenandoah Valley, VA. Goodspeed's *History of Washington County* lists Major John Reed and George W. Reed as two of four brothers, natives of Wales, who, with their families settled in VA. Who were the other brothers? When and where exactly did they settle in the Shenandoah Valley?

Shirley Jaffray, Box 893, Bethany, OK 73008 would like to correspond with anyone who has information about the ARNETT family who probably lived in Madison County, AR in the 1830s and 1840s. John Arnett, b. ca 1805 in IL had children: (1) Sarah Berry Arnett, b. 9 December 1821, m. John J. MARRS (Washington County). These are my grandparents. Sarah's second husband was John BLAKELEY. (2) Sophronia Arnett, m. Gideon DAILY. (3) Jane Arnett m. James CLARK. (4) Wm. Arnett m. 1. Martha WOODS and 2. Lorrena ROLLAND.

WHEN THEY BURNED THEIR HOUSES

by Ruth Holt Payne

The word "smallpox" is seldom heard anymore but the disease was prevalent in this part of the country more than a half century ago. When I grew up smallpox, measles and less serious diseases were part of childhood and it was a relief when we were all through with them, especially if we escaped with no side injuries such as having measles or smallpox settle in the eyes. Victims were sometimes left with pock marks on the skin, scars from the smallpox sores, also. The fifth of seven children, I was too young to remember having smallpox along with the others but we all survived and with no side effects.

Vaccination was slow to become widely available, although a Dr. Jenner of England began his experiments as early as 1796. Before that country folk had discovered that cowpox, a disease caught by milking cows, would lessen the severity of smallpox or possibly prevent it. They proceeded to spread cowpox by infecting one person from the sores of another. After Dr. Edward Jenner's experiments vaccination was effected by making criss-cross scratches on the arm with a lancet and rubbing cowpox virus into the cut. Later, another method of not breaking the skin but by pressing a cultivated virus into the arm with the side of a needle, was developed. Although it was known in the United States, it wasn't until 1918 that it became compulsory to vaccinate school children. Before that I don't remember hearing the word outside my home.

My mother was proud of the fact that her brother had vaccinated her by scraping her arm with his pocket knife and injecting pus from his own sores. Luckily, it had been effective which enabled her to nurse her own family with immunity. Sometimes early vaccinations were repeated at intervals for several years to be sure of immunity and sometimes the vaccination didn't "take" at all.

The last epidemic of major severity happened in 1914 in Elm Springs, Ark., the same "Ellum" Springs of the article by Helen Luke in Feb. 1988 in FLASHBACK. Ms. Luke states the population there in 1927 was 140, it couldn't have been much different in 1914 and smallpox must have been a real threat to the numbers.

According to a report by Dr. Frank Young, practicing physician at that time, the disease struck 26 persons, killing 10. Records state that "The C.O. White family arrived in the Bert Carson home Jan. 8th, 1914 in Elm Springs, Ark., from Tampico, Mexico. A small boy became ill Jan. 5th but it wasn't diagnosed as smallpox until Jan. 10th. By that time several persons had been exposed and the disease spread through the village, infecting 26. A Mr. and Mrs. Wilse Phillips who had been vaccinated in 1864, took the disease again in a mild form. One of the White children had a mild case while the parents who had been vaccinated in 1910, escaped. A Mr. and Mrs. Brown were vaccinated after being exposed, both took it and died. One Brown child was successfully vaccinated after exposure.

An emergency call was sent out for those who had nursing experience, although no training and who had been immunized either by being vaccinated or by having had the disease. Among those who responded was my mother, Mrs. Ella Marshall Holt of Rhea, Alex Downum, Elm Springs, who had survived an attack at age 2 in 1862 but who now had a repeat case when exposed. Twenty other "nurses" who had been vaccinated or had previously had smallpox remained immune. Families and their nurses were quarantined of course, and a man who had been immunized was appointed to deliver medicine, food and

other necessities to the homes. He was a welcome visitor from the outside of which my mother often spoke but I have forgotten his name.

Black Tongue, a disease where the tongue swells, sometimes choking the victim, also attacked the patients and the woman where my mother nursed contracted it but recovered. These nurses were paid $2 per day by the county and that was considered good pay at that time. When the epidemic was over the homes occupied by the patients were vacated and their homes burned to the ground. Also all animals connected with them were killed. My mother spoke of her reluctance to kill the family cat which she did by containing it under the iron wash kettle and pushing a chloroformed rag under the kettle. It was the only way they could be sure the germs were destroyed then.

On May 4, I was escorting a group of ladies about Fayetteville during a meeting of their church mission league. The weather cooperated beautifully. Their interest and enthusiasm was most enjoyable. Surprisingly, their greatest curiosity was not in "Bloody Corner", in the asymmetrical towers of Old Main, nor even in our prized Tebbetts house. No, they were enthralled with our Royal Pawlonia tree.

On that May date, it was in peak bloom on the southwest corner of Headquarters House landscape. Everyone wanted to know the name of such a spectacular tree. Was it a huge wisteria? "No," I said confidently, "it is a Royal Pawlonia, Arkansas' champion Royal Pawlonia, in fact."

After many "oohs" and "aahs" we went on with the tour. Quietly I breathed a sigh of relief. My association with WCHS and all of the recent publicity about this magnificent specimen had given me the ultimate answer to their inquiry. We are, and should be, rightfully proud of what nature and history has given us. *Nancy Bittle*

PRINCESS TREE

On the back cover is pictured Arkansas' State Champion Royal Pawlonia tree. The Society is proud to have it growing in the extreme southwest corner of our grounds at Headquarters House. Its circumference is 9 feet 3 inches, and its age is estimated at 60 years.

In the spring there is a showy display of pink and purple flowers. Throughout the summer its large leaves, similar to those of a catalpa, provide plenty of shade. The Pawlonia is from China and was introduced in this country more than a hundred years ago. It is found mostly in the south because of its dislike of cold weather.

Known also as "Princess Tree" or "Empress Tree", it was named for Anna Paulownia, Princess of Russia and the Netherlands from 1795 to 1865. Japanese used its lightweight wood to make furniture and sandals. The photo was made by Deborah Robinson of the *Northwest Arkansas Times*. Lisa Davoust, WCHS secretary, posed to give some scale to the picture.

The front cover shows the minieball hole made in a front door during the Battle of Fayetteville. April 17, 1988 marks the 125th anniversary of this battle. This door is now an inner door to improve its chances for a long life. This photo also by Deborah Robinson.

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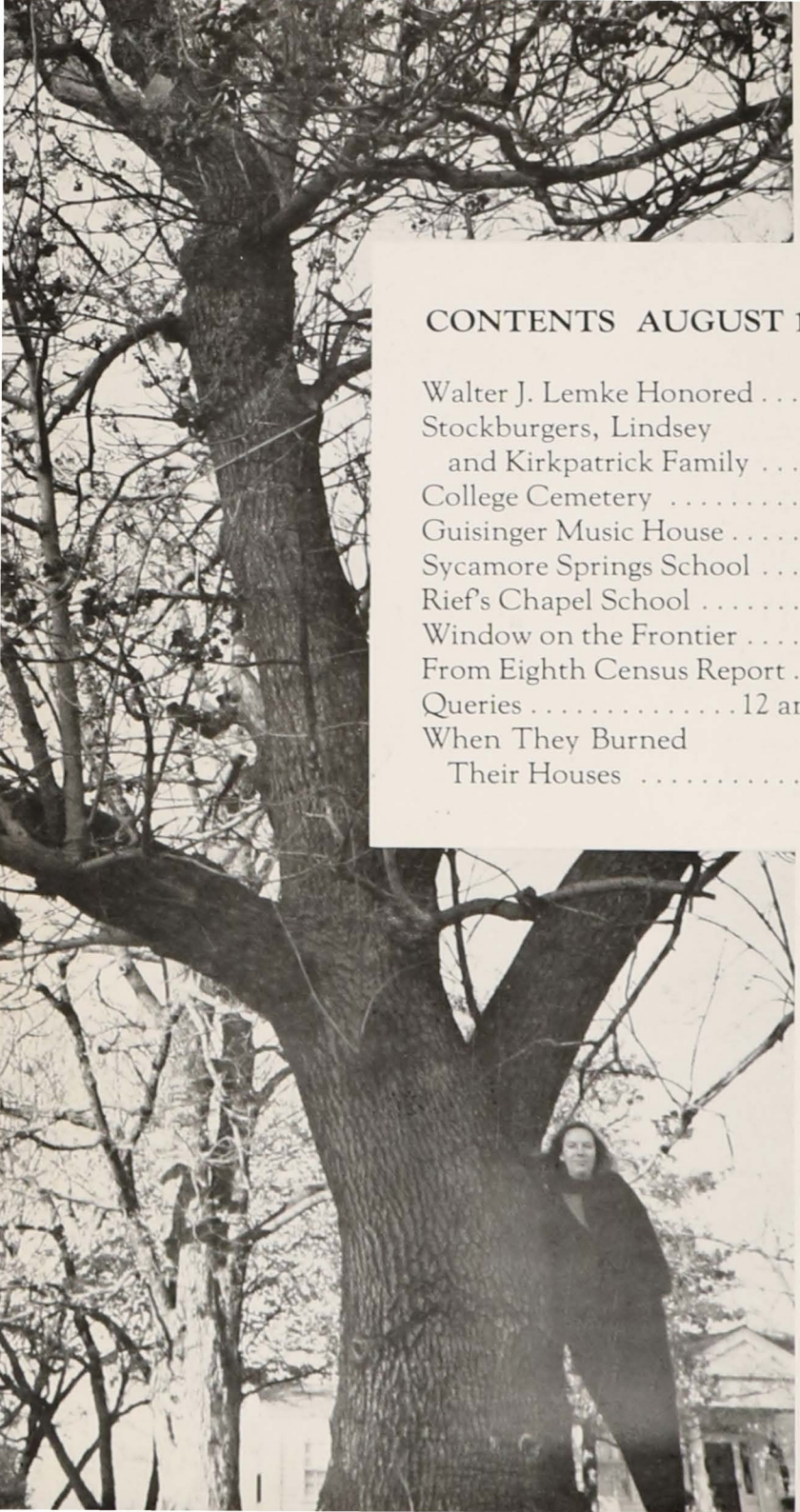

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